

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A folding device for producing a second longitudinal fold in products of a rotary press, comprising:

a folding drum comprising two opposing side walls and a carrier connected to the folding drum at a location between said side walls, ~~said~~ wherein said carrier has a small material thickness in a longitudinal direction of said folding device and a large area extending approximately over ~~the~~ an entire cross section of an interior of said folding drum in a transverse direction of said folding device;

a folding-blade shaft having two ends, each of said two ends of said folding-blade shaft being rotatably mounted in a respective one of said sides walls in said folding drum, said folding-blade shaft having at least two folding-blade carriers for holding folding blades which are spaced apart from one another in a region proximate said carrier by a distance smaller than 10 millimeters;

a pair of bearings arranged in said side walls of said folding drum, said ends of said folding-blade shaft being mounted respectively in said side walls by said pair of bearings;

at least one further bearing arranged in said carrier, wherein said folding-blade shaft is further rotatably supported in said carrier by said at least one further bearing between said ends of said folding-blade shaft,

wherein said pair of bearings and said at least one further bearing ~~pair of bearings~~ comprise self-aligning roller bearings.

2. (Original) The folding device of claim 1, wherein said at least one further bearing is arranged between adjacent ones of said at least two folding-blade carriers.

3. - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The folding device of claim 1, wherein said pair of bearings and said at least one further bearing are operatively arranged for receiving lubricating medium from a central lubricating-medium supply.

6. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The folding device of claim 1, wherein said carrier is connected to said folding drum by threaded connectors.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The folding device of claim 13, further comprising a clamping element providing a force-transmitting connection between said drive pinion and said folding-blade shaft.

11. (Previously Presented) The folding device of claim 13, further comprising a screw connection securing said drive pinion to said folding-blade shaft.

12. (Previously Presented) The folding device of claim 13, further comprising a screw connection securing said drive pinion to said folding-blade shaft from a first side, and a clamping element providing a force-transmitting connection between said drive pinion and said folding-blade shaft from a second side, thereby preventing a translational movement of said drive pinion along a longitudinal direction of said folding-blade shaft.

13. (Previously Presented) The folding device of claim 1, further comprising a drive pinion arranged on said folding-blade shaft, said drive pinion being connected to said folding-blade shaft with a form-fitting connection by serrated toothing.

14. (Currently Amended) A folding device for producing a second longitudinal fold in products of a rotary press, comprising:

a folding drum having a longitudinal axis and comprising two opposing side walls and a drum wall extending longitudinally between said side walls, said drum wall having a C-shaped cross section defining a circumferential gap between circumferential ends along a longitudinal length thereof;

a folding-blade shaft having two ends, each of said two ends of said folding-blade shaft being rotatably mounted in a respective one of said sides walls in said folding drum, said folding-blade shaft having at least two folding-blade carriers for holding folding blades; and

a carrier connected to said drum wall, said carrier extending transverse to said longitudinal axis and rotatably supporting said folding-blade shaft at a location between said side walls, wherein said carrier has a small material thickness in a longitudinal direction of said folding device and a large area extending approximately over the entire cross section of an interior of said folding drum, and said folding blades being spaced apart from one another in a region proximate said carrier by a distance smaller than 10 millimeters.

15. (Previously Presented) The folding device of claim 14, wherein said drum wall has a projection extending radially inward and said carrier is connected to said projection on said drum wall.

16. (Previously Presented) The folding device of claim 15, wherein said carrier is connected to said projection using threaded connectors.

17. (Previously Presented) The folding device of claim 14, further comprising a pair of bearings arranged in said side walls of said folding drum, said ends of said folding-blade shaft being mounted respectively in said side walls by said pair of bearings; and

at least one further bearing arranged in said carrier, wherein said folding-blade shaft is further rotatably supported in said folding drum by said at least one further bearing between said ends of said folding-blade shaft.

18. (Previously Presented) The folding device of claim 17, wherein said pair of bearings and said at least one further pair of bearings comprise self-aligning roller bearings.

19. (Previously Presented) The folding device of claim 14, wherein said carrier comprises a sheet-metal blank.